Benefits to Farmers from WTO and economic reforms

†638. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the details of benefits likely to be derived by the common farmers of India, whose population is supposed to be around 78 per cent, from World Trade Organisation and the so called liberal regulated economic reforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): World Trade Organisation (WTO) provides a predictable rule based multilateral trading system which protects the developing countries from the bilateral pressures of the developed trading partners. Being a fully democratic organisation, with equal voting rights to each member, India is assured of a say in the multilateral rule making process. WTO also has a strong Dispute Settlement Mechanism to resolve any disputes between members. By virtue of being a member of WTO, India is automatically entitled to get the most favoured nation (MFN) and national treatment from all other members for its exports. Farmers of India can have access to international market for exporting their crops and thereby can have the opportunity to get better prices for their products.

KVKs in Assam

639. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3834, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th April, 2001 and state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has cleared the proposal for establishment of Krishi Vigyan Kendras in six districts of Assam;

(b) if so,whether Government have formulated any scheme for setting up KVKs in that State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A scheme for setting up KVKs in various States (including the State of Assam) has been approved by the Planning Commission. The proposal includes establishment of KVKs in six districts of Assam *viz.*, Dibrugarh, Barpeta, Nalbari, Sibsagar, Bongaigaon and North Cachar Hills.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.